CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-22 (cancelled)

23. (new) Apparatus for removing a deposit accumulated in electrolytic refining on a surface of an electrode, comprising:

a support structure for supporting the electrode substantially stationarily in a generally vertical orientation, at least one element for restraining a lower edge of the electrode against horizontal movement, and at least one element for restraining an upper edge of the electrode against horizontal movement,

at least one stripping element that is turnable about a horizontal axis spaced from the electrode, the stripping element having an end that is spaced from the horizontal axis and moves vertically relative to the electrode during turning of the stripping element and engages the deposit on the surface of the electrode intermediate the lower and upper edges of the electrode, and

a control element coupled drivingly to the stripping element for turning the stripping element,

whereby cooperation of the stripping element and the elements for restraining the lower and upper edges of the electrode against horizontal movement causes bending of the electrode.

24. (new) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the stripping element includes a sliding element at the end of the stripping element for engaging the surface of the electrode.

25. (new) Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the sliding element is a roller.

26. (New) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the support structure includes elements for restraining the lower edge of the electrode against horizontal movement in two opposite directions perpendicular to the lower edge of the electrode and

elements for restraining the upper edge of the electrode against horizontal movement in two opposite directions perpendicular to the upper edge of the electrode.

27. (New) Apparatus according to claim 26, comprising first and second stripping elements for engaging opposite respective surfaces of the electrode, each stripping element having an end and being turnable about a horizontal axis that is spaced from the electrode and is substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the electrode.

28. (New) Apparatus according to claim 27, wherein each stripping element is provided at its end with a sliding element.

29. (New) Apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the sliding element is a roller.

30. (New) apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the control element is a power cylinder.

31. (New) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the control element is a motor.

32. (new) A method of removing a deposit accumulated in electrolytic refining on a surface of an electrode, comprising:

supporting the electrode substantially stationarily in a generally vertical orientation,

restraining upper and lower edges of the electrode against horizontal movement,

providing at least one stripping element that is turnable about a horizontal axis spaced from the electrode, and

turning the stripping element about the horizontal axis, whereby an end of the stripping element that is spaced from the horizontal axis engages the deposit on the surface of the electrode intermediate the lower and upper edges of the electrode

and moves vertically relative to the electrode and causes bending of the electrode.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, comprising bending the electrode in only one direction.

34. (New) A method according to claim 33, comprising bending the electrode first in one direction and thereafter in a seocond direction opposite said one direction.

35. (New) A method according to claim 32, comprising removing metal deposits from a cathode.